

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,933

Examiner

Quan-Zhen Wang

Applicant(s)

FISHMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/27/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Reed on January 5, 2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 7, the phrase "commanding the disablement" has been replaced by --- commanding a disablement ---.

In claim 1, line 20, the phrase "reference to the at least one" has been replaced by --- reference to at least one ---.

In claim 9, line 7, the phrase "commanding the enablement" has been replaced by --- commanding an enablement ---.

In claim 17, line 17, the phrase "commanding the disablement" has been replaced by --- commanding a disablement ---.

In claim 17, line 30 (line 7 on page 38), the phrase "reference to the at least one" has been replaced by --- reference to at least one ---.

In claim 21, line 17, the phrase "commanding the disablement" has been replaced by --- commanding a disablement ---.

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In claim 21, line 30 (line 7 on page 40), the phrase "reference to the at least one" has been replaced by --- reference to at least one ---.

In claim 25, line 3, the phrase "a first sequence" has been replaced by --- a first bit sequence ---.

In claim 25, line 8, the phrase "a second sequence" has been replaced by --- a second bit sequence ---.

In claim 25, line 12, the phrase "the bit sequences," has been replaced by --- the first bit sequence and the second bit sequence, ---.

In claim 26, line 3, the phrase "from like input" has been replaced by --- from the same input ---.

In claim 36, line 3, the phrase "a first sequence" has been replaced by --- a first bit sequence ---.

In claim 36, line 8, the phrase "a second sequence" has been replaced by --- a second bit sequence ---.

In claim 36, line 12, the phrase "the bit sequences," has been replaced by --- the first bit sequence and the second bit sequence, ---.

In claim 37, line 3, the phrase "from like input" has been replaced by --- from the same input ---.

In claim 47, line 3, the phrase "a first sequence" has been replaced by --- a first bit sequence ---.

In claim 47, line 11, the phrase "a second sequence" has been replaced by --- a second bit sequence ---.

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In claim 47, line 20, the phrase "the bit sequences," has been replaced by --- the first bit sequence and the second bit sequence, ---.

In claim 52, line 3, the phrase "a first sequence" has been replaced by --- a first bit sequence ---.

In claim 52, line 11, the phrase "a second sequence" has been replaced by --- a second bit sequence ---.

In claim 52, line 20, the phrase "the bit sequences," has been replaced by --- the first bit sequence and the second bit sequence, ---.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-56 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-8, 17-20, 25-35, and 47-51 are allowable since the prior art of record does not teach or suggest in combination a method and system for measuring a turn-off time of an electronic device, comprising steps: generating a first bit sequence by reference to a controlling pattern; transmitting the first bit sequence to the electronic device; receiving the first bit sequence from the electronic device and a second bit sequence generated by reference to the controlling pattern; commanding the disablement of the electronic device after initiating said generating step; comparing bit groups from the first bit sequence from the electronic device to corresponding bit groups in the second bit sequence, said comparing step beginning when said commanding step is executed; maintaining a count that is incremented each time said comparing step is

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executed; storing each bit group from the first bit sequence from the electronic device that does not match a corresponding bit group in the second bit sequence along with a corresponding value of the count; terminating said comparing step when a bit group from the first bit sequence from the electronic device indicates that the electronic device is turned off; and computing the turn-off time by reference to the at least one stored bit group and corresponding value of the count; in addition to other limitations cited in the claims.

Claims 9-16, 21-24, 36-46, and 52-59 are allowable since the prior art of record does not teach or suggest in combination a method and system for measuring a turn-on time of an electronic device, comprising steps: generating a first bit sequence by reference to a controlling pattern; transmitting the first bit sequence to the electronic device; receiving the first bit sequence from the electronic device and a second bit sequence generated by reference to the controlling pattern; commanding the enablement of the electronic device after initiating said generating step; comparing groups of output values of the electronic device to corresponding bit groups in the second bit sequence, said comparing step beginning when said commanding step is executed; maintaining a count that is incremented each time said comparing step is executed; storing comparison results for each group of output values with an output value that matches a corresponding bit in a bit group in the second bit sequence along with a corresponding value of the count; terminating said comparing step when an entire group of output values matches a corresponding bit group in the second bit sequence;

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and computing the turn-on time by reference to one or more of the stored comparison results and corresponding counts; in addition to other limitation cited in the claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matthes (U.S. Patent US 4,875,150) discloses a parallel oscillatory circuit frequency converter with safety circuit that comprises a turn-off time meter measuring a turn-off time of a circuit.

Muneta et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0181296 A1) disclose a safety network in which a turn-on time of slave units are measured with a timer.

Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0017875 A1) disclose a slave network slave processing method and apparatus information collection method that measures a turn-off time and stores the information in a storage unit.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quan-Zhen Wang whose telephone number is (571)

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272-3114. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

qzw
1/5/2007


JASON CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600